Central Trade Unions, including INTUC, BMS, HMS, CITU, AITUC, UTCC, UTCC Lenin Sharani have been demanding to waive the ceiling. Hon. Prime Minister has also assured to bring the amendment in the Bonus Act. The government notified a Draft Bill for amending the Bonus Act 1965, in the extraordinary Gazette No.22, Part-ll, Section 2, page 75 dated 9.5.2002. But the Bill has not been introduced in the Parliament till now. This has created a great discontentment among the working class all over the country. In other developed countries, all the employees used to get salary for 13 months for 12 months' work, which means 8.33 per cent bonus is compulsory for everybody. I, therefore, urge upon the Government of India and request the hon. Prime Minister to bring the amendment in Bonus Act 1965 immediately so as to enable all the workers, executives, officers and the lowest paid employee to get the share of the bonus. Thank you, Madam.

SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY (West Bengal): Madam, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by Shri Ramachandra Khuntia.

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (Kerala): Madam, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by Shri Ramachandra Khuntia.

Release of foodgrains and funds to tackle drought in Karnataka

SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY (Karnataka) : Madam, Karnataka State is experiencing the worst drought continuously since 2001. During pre-monsoon season of 2003, the Karnataka State as a whole received a meagre rainfall of 50 mm, which is 64 per cent less than the seasonal normal of 138 mm. Out of 27 deficit districts, 21 districts recorded severely deficit rainfall and remaining six districts had moderately deficit rainfall during pre-monsoon 2003. As on 15th July 2003, the area sown was only 16.83 lakh hectares as against the normal sown area of 35.28 lakh hectares. In 17 districts, there is fall in groundwater table. Even if the rainfall improves in August/September, the damages caused to kharif sown area are irreparable.

Madam, since the State has been facing meteorological, agricultural and hydrological drought, I request the Government of India to release 3 lakh metric tons of free rice and the funds sought for by the Karnataka Government to tackle the drought.

And, one more thing, which I want to mention, is that the Central Government is giving a step-motherly treatment to Karnataka State. It has released 46 lakh tonnes of foodgrains to Andhra Pradesh, but only 6.5 lakh tonnes of foodgrains to Karnataka. *...(Interruptions)...They* have taken a step-motherly attitude. *...(Interruptions)...*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is okay. *...(Interruptions)...* A Member can ask for his State. But there is no need to say why others are getting. Everybody should get. *...(Interruptions)...*

DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR (Andhra Pradesh) : Madam, the State of Karnataka is my neighbouring State. I also associate myself with the Special Mention of Shri K.B. Krishna Murthy. But, they should also reciprocate the same feelings so far as the State of Andhra Pradesh is concerned. In that spirit, I associate myself with his Special Mention. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY : Madam, it is a politically motivated campaign because the State of Andhra Pradesh is supporting the B.J.P. Government. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE (West Bengal) : Madam, there is no dearth of foodgrains. So, the demand and requirement of each State can be met. We have no objection if Andhra Pradesh gets 56 lakh tonnes of foodgrains. The hon. Member can correct me if I am wrong. But so far as we are concerned, we want that each State should get an equal quantum of foodgrains to meet their requirements. *...(Interruptions)...*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What he is trying to say is that... *...(Interruptions)...* I will let you know.

DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: In that spirit, I am associating myself with the special mention raised by Shri K.B. Krishna Murthy that Karnataka should get more foodgrains. But, at the same time, I would like to submit that we have drought in the State of Andhra Pradesh, and it is quite hot. So, the State of Karnataka should release water to the State of Andhra Pradesh which is reeling under severe drought. *...(Interruptions)...*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Dr. Alladi P. Rajkumar, you raise your special mention now. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI N. JOTHI (Tamil Nadu) : Madam, the Minister should make a statement.... *(Interruptions)...*

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Madam, let the Minister come and make a statement. We are suffering. I appeal to you to ask the Minister to come to the House and make a statement. *...(Interruptions)...*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: All right. I can understand the sentiments of the Members from Karnataka. They have got problems. I would request the Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs to take note of their sentiments and convey the same to the Government. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY (Karnataka) : Madam, we want a statement. The Minister should make a statement in the House. *...(Interruptions)...*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): Madam, the Member was making some statement which has not been included in the original statement. That has created the problem.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay.

DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Madam, after foodgrains, you can include water also.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Dr. Alladi P. Rajkumar, you are going to speak on it. *...(Interruptions)...* The Minister said that he is going to convey the sentiments of the hon. Members to the Government.

श्री सुरेश पचौरी (**मध्य प्रदेश**) : मैडम , इस पर एक डिस्कशन होनी चाहिए । **...** (**व्यवधान**)**...**

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will convey to the Chairman what you want, and if we find time, we will discuss the matter. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI N. JOTHI: Madam, then, please also recommend a discussion on the atrocities committed by Karnataka. *...(Interruptions)...*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Is it Cauvery again? I can understand. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN (Karnataka) : Madam, he should withdraw these words.

SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA (Tamil Nadu) : We are making our claim. *...(Interruptions)...*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let him speak. Let us not encroach upon his time. *...(Interruptions)...* बोलिए , बोलिए । **...(व्यवधान)...** अब शांति हो गई है । अभी सब चुपचाप रहिए । बोलिए डा. अलादी

DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Madam, how can I speak unless there is order in the House?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Don't worry. Let us keep quiet. Let him speak. Don't encroach on his time. Otherwise, he will say that it is atrocity. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI N. JOTHI: Madam, is it a Federal set up? *...(Interruptions)...*

Non-release of water in Tungabhadra Dam

DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR (Andhra Pradesh): Madam, I am thankful to the hon. Chairman as well as to you. This morning, before the Question Hour, the hon. Chairman has witnessed our pain and agony about the scarcity of drinking water in our State and non-release of water to the State of Andhra Pradesh. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRIMATI S. G. INDIRA (Tamil Nadu) : We are making our claim. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA (Karnataka) : Tamil Nadu also! *...(Interruptions)...*